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# Sandinist Calls Reagan's Trip Disruptive

By MARLISE SIMONS

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MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Nov. 29 — The Nicaraguan Government fears that President Reagan's visit to Central America this week will lead to the intensification of the diplomatic and covert military offensive it says is already under way against Nicaragua.

In an interview, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of the junta here, said Mr. Reagan's stopover in Honduras on Saturday would further encourage Honduran involvement with "counterrevolutionary" exile groups that launch attacks across the Nicaraguan border. "We are worried because Reagan's interest is to strengthen the warlike posture of Honduras," Mr. Ramirez said. "It is another step in the creation of a climate of aggression."

The official newspaper Barricada said in an editorial that the Reagan visit to Honduras also eliminated doubts "whether the activities in Honduras were a consequence of Central Intelligence Agency plans and Ambassador Negroponte getting out of hand, or whether Reagan himself is responsible for the policy" endorsing the exile raids. John D. Negroponte is the United States Ambassador to Honduras.

During his stopover in Central America, which will follow visits to Brazil and Colombia, Mr. Reagan will meet briefly with the leaders of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Mr. Ramirez said that the participation of Guatemala was also an ominous sign that that country, "which has until now kept at a distance," was being enlisted in the "diplomatic offensive" against Nicaragua.

## 'Not on the Imperial Itinerary'

Mr. Ramirez said there had been no attempt to include Nicaragua on the Reagan tour. "We are not on the imperial itinerary to demonstrate that we are the controversial country that must be isolated," the junta member said.

Although both the United States and Nicaragua have professed an interest in talks to ease tensions, relations between the two countries have been virtually frozen in recent months.

American diplomats here are refusing appointments with high-level Sandinist officials. This is a response, Mr. Ramirez said, to Washington's refusal to receive the Nicaraguan Ambassador there by anyone other than low-level State Department officials. Casual contacts between the United States Ambassador and one of the nine-member Sandinist directorate here are sometimes made at diplomatic events. "But nothing has been said or done for well over six months to move either side off dead center," said a diplomat here.

The formal exchanges between the two Governments that took place earlier this year have also come to a halt. The exchanges began after President José López Portillo of Mexico, backed by Venezuela, proposed peace talks between Honduras and Nicaragua to end border incidents and Honduran support for the anti-Sandinist exiles.

But the letters between Managua and Washington have been procedural, discussing agenda items, not substantive. The last letter was sent by Nicaragua in August, referring Washington back to the Mexican initiative; the United States has not replied.

According to United States diplomats in Central America, Washington opposes any Nicaraguan-Honduran talks. "Nicaragua could gain some points if talking among equals," said one United States diplomat in the region. "If Honduras felt strong pressure it might have to give in."

The Reagan Administration asserts that Nicaragua has caused regional problems with its military buildup, its Cuban and Eastern European military advisers and its support for guerrillas in El Salvador. To seek support for this position, the Reagan Administration organized the so-called Forum of Peace and Democracy on Oct. 3 in San José, Costa Rica, which was attended by representatives from seven regional governments and the United States. The

San José meeting, in the eyes of the Sandinist Government, was a "quiet declaration of war by the United States," said one high official here.

Since then, Nicaraguan officials say, rebel actions have stepped up dramatically and the war has already begun.

There were incidents once or twice a week this summer. Now incidents, including incursions, ambushes or attacks on civilians, happen virtually every day.